

E X H I B I T A



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Charles G. Carson, III
Vice President
Environmental Affairs

November 16, 1995

Ms. Marcia L. Spink
Associate Director-Air Programs
Mailcode 3AT00
U. S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region III
841 Chestnut Building
Philadelphia, PA 19107

Re: USX Corporation - Comments on Proposed Rule
Clean Air Act Reclassification, Liberty Borough, Pennsylvania, PM-10

Dear Ms. Spink:

U. S. Steel Group, a Unit of USX Corporation ("U. S. Steel"), respectfully submits the following comments to the Proposed Rule concerning the Clean Air Act Reclassification of Pennsylvania Liberty Borough Non-Attainment for PM₁₀.

On September 19, 1995, the U.S. EPA published in the Federal Register a request for comments on the reclassification of the Liberty Borough nonattainment area from moderate to serious. Specifically comments were to include the following:

The PM₁₀ control requirements adopted to date by the County and the timing and status of their implementation, the compliance status and history of the sources subject to the PM₁₀ control requirements, the efforts made to date to meet the PM₁₀ control requirements, air quality data, and trends as they relate to implementation of the control requirements and weather system occurrences(meteorology)....any mitigating facts, or extenuating circumstance.

On November 15, 1990, the Liberty Borough Area was declared a moderate nonattainment area. Allegheny County began working on the required SIP revision with the intention of meeting the statutory deadline of November 15, 1991. However due to complex terrain, equipment and meteorology, the SIP took over five years to develop and the County spent over \$1.5 million dollars for the development. Due to these extenuating

U. S. Steel Group
A Unit of USX Corporation



circumstances, the SIP revision was not submitted to the EPA until January 1994, and additional time until December 1994 was needed to install controls. These unique timing circumstances are a situation for which the Clean Air Act does not provide guidance.

U. S. Steel's Clairton Works is located in the City of Clairton, one of the five municipalities in the Liberty Borough Area. Clairton Works is the largest producer of metallurgical coke in North America employing over 1, 750 persons and impacting several thousand additional jobs in the region. As a significant member of the community, Clairton Works was very involved in the development and implementation of the new SIP. U. S Steel has complied with all the applicable requirements of the new PM₁₀ SIP, installing new PM₁₀ control equipment at the coal-handling operations in 1994.

The data obtained from the monitors located in the Liberty Borough area show an improvement in air quality over the last five years. Data from monitors located in Glassport, Port Vue, Clairton and Liberty demonstrate attainment of the daily and annual ambient air quality standards.

The exceedances listed in the Federal Register are from the Lincoln High Volume monitor. U. S. Steel believes that the siting of this monitor does not meet the requirements set forth in 40 CFR 58, Appendices D and E, and 40 CFR 50, Appendix K because of the following:

1. Location near Propane Exhaust Chimney: 40 CFR 58, Appendix E, Subsection 8.2 requires that a monitor be placed at least five (5) meters from a chimney which has emissions from natural gas combustion. The Lincoln High Volume Monitor is located less than five meters from a chimney from which exhaust from a propane-fired generator is emitted. Propane is a heavier gas than natural gas producing at least as much particulate matter as that from natural gas. The result of the exhaust located within five meters of the monitor is to produce emissions adequate to influence and invalidate the PM₁₀ measurement.

2. Location near a Dirt Road without Vegetation: 40 CFR 58, Appendix E, Subpart 8.4 prohibits a monitor from being located "in an unpaved area unless there is vegetative ground cover year round." The monitor is located near a dirt and slag road, which was installed specifically to service the monitors, without year-round vegetation.

3. Representative Data: 40 CFR 50, Appendix K, Subsection 2.3, requires that the data used to demonstrate attainment must be three years of representative monitoring data. The data gathered from the Lincoln High Volume monitor is not demographically or meteorologically representative. Unusual combinations of upslope winds, nocturnal

Ms. Marcia L. Spink
November 16, 1995
Page 3

temperature inversions and extremely low mixing heights, while common at the monitor site, are infrequent in the other sections of the Liberty Borough area. In addition the monitor is located on industrial property which is not accessible to the public.

Because the site of the Lincoln High Volume Monitor is not in compliance with the Federal siting requirements, the data from this monitor should not be used in the determination of attainment for the area. If the Lincoln High Volume monitoring data are removed from the analysis, the remaining data from the other monitors located in the Liberty Borough Area show attainment. Thus, U. S. Steel recommends that the U. S. EPA declare the Liberty Borough area in attainment for PM₁₀ because the data from the monitors properly sited in the area show attainment of the daily and annual ambient air standards. The data from the Lincoln High Volume monitor should not be included in such a review as the monitor is not sited in accordance with the Federal siting criteria.

If the Agency is unwilling to redesignate the Liberty Borough area as attainment at this time, the Agency should adopt the following process. U. S. EPA should develop an economic impact study of the redesignation and grant an extension in order to allow time for the revised SIP to be evaluated.

- As a result of Executive Order ("E.O.") 12866 of September 30, 1993, governmental agencies are to determine if proposed regulatory actions are significant and thus should be subject to review by the Office of Management and Budget and to economic analysis. While the cost of redesignating the Liberty Borough as serious is yet to be determined, the impact would be significant and consideration should be given to the preparation of an economic impact study.
- Section 188(d) of the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 ("CAAA") provides that a one (1) year extension may be granted if the State has complied with all requirements of the SIP and no more than one exceedance of the 24-hour national ambient air quality standard for PM₁₀ has occurred in the area in the year preceding the extension year. All the measure in the SIP have been met and the data demonstrates compliance with the air quality standards.

To summarize, as an alternative to designating the Liberty Borough area as attainment, U. S. Steel recommends that the U.S. EPA complete an economic impact study of the redesignation as required by E.O. 12866 and grant an extension as permitted by Section 188(d) of the CAAA, during which consideration of an attainment designation can, if necessary, continue.

Ms. Marcia L. Spink
November 16, 1995
Page 4

Attached is a more detailed document which is incorporated by reference and made part of this letter. U. S. Steel requests that the Agency review this attachment and consider the information contained therein in their review process.

U. S. Steel appreciates the time and resources committed to this issue. U. S. Steel will provide any necessary additional information and would be willing to meet with the U.S. EPA to further discuss this matter

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles G. Carson, III". The signature is written in dark ink and includes a stylized flourish at the end.

Charles G. Carson, III

Attachments

cc: R. Chleboski - ACHD
T. W. Goettge - U. S. Steel
M. Kocoshis - GASP
G. Strelick - USWA

bc: R. F. DiCola
R. Dworek
C. C. Gedeon
R. W. Glenn
B. D. Long
H. R. McCollum
S. K. Todd

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